



North American Plant Protection Organization Strategic Plan for 2022-2026*

**The previously approved version of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Strategic Plan (SP) was in effect for the years 2016 through 2020. However, in late 2020, the NAPPO Executive Committee unanimously approved the continued use of the 2016-2020 NAPPO SP for calendar year 2021.*

NAPPO's Mission Statement

Provide a forum for public and private sectors in Canada, the United States, and Mexico to collaborate in the regional protection of agricultural, forest, other plant resources, and the environment, while facilitating safe trade. Plant protection and trade facilitation are achieved through the development and implementation of science-based regional standards and other documents, ongoing dialogue and communication, and other plant protection activities directed towards preventing the introduction and spread of regulated plant pests.

NAPPO and its relationship to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

NAPPO is the regional plant protection organization (RPPO) for North America¹, established in accordance with the IPPC. The NAPPO SP is supportive of and consistent with the overarching objectives² of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030). In addition, the NAPPO SP reflects the roles and functions of RPPOs as defined in Article IX of the Convention³.

Overarching Challenges and Opportunities

Since the approval of the 2016-2020 NAPPO SP, we have observed the continuous evolution of agriculture, forestry, and other related areas, and an expansion of the global marketplace, to which NAPPO must continue to adapt. In looking forward to the next five years, we have identified the following overarching challenges and opportunities, which impact how NAPPO conducts its activities to best meet its mission:

A. Responding and adapting to rapidly changing trade and travel patterns. Global production, supply chain disruptions, consumer preferences, unexpected events (e.g., global pandemics) and new pathways for pests increasingly challenge national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) in achieving their mandate to protect plant resources. For example, commodities from new sources, expansion of e-commerce, commodities that

¹ Canada, United States and Mexico

² IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030): <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

³ Convention text: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/convention-text/>

are exported, processed and/or transited through multiple countries, non-traditional stakeholders, and increasing requests for market access, have put more pressure on efforts to protect our regional plant resources.

- B. Addressing and responding to threats to biodiversity and the environment, including impacts of climate change.** Beyond agricultural production, invasive pests continue to pose a threat to wild flora, forests, and ecosystems at large. This threat will be exacerbated by changes in climate which are expected to lead to geographical expansion of pest distributions, more frequent pest introductions, changes in pest outbreak patterns, and development of new or expanded endangered areas, as well as facilitate potential opportunities for growing new crops in new areas, which may result in presently unknown pest risks. Responding to these challenges while managing the volume and reliability of information on these issues is a concern for all plant protection organizations, including NAPPO.
- C. Seeking new alternatives to traditional quarantine treatments such as methyl bromide (MeBr).** There has been and will be increasing pressure on NPPOs to find alternative pest mitigation and management options to reduce their dependence on methyl bromide and other treatments that have proven adverse environmental impacts.
- D. Staying informed of and adopting scientific advancements and technological innovations.** Risk intelligence and new technologies can help address phytosanitary concerns due to shifts in trade and travel patterns and new agricultural practices. Some examples include 1) new technologies for pest detection and diagnostics, 2) implementation of risk-based sampling, 3) electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto), 4) increased use of systems approaches in pest risk management, 5) precision safeguarding, 6) data analytics and data driven decision-making tools, and 7) technological developments in the agriculture and forestry sectors.
- E. Improving stakeholder awareness and support for phytosanitary services through effective and targeted communications and training.** Effectively responding to phytosanitary challenges is a concern for all plant protection organizations, including NAPPO. Complete, transparent, and timely communication to our stakeholders is key to maintaining their support for regional plant health activities and programs.

Strategic Goals

International movement of commodities, associated conveyances, and people continue to increase. In addition, NPPOs have become aware of new pathways that have increased phytosanitary threats to North America. Effective protection of North American plant resources requires regional cooperation and harmonization, where appropriate, as well as collaboration at the international level. Plant pests do not respect borders. This includes pests which threaten agriculture, forests, and other plant resources. NAPPO plays a critical role in coordinating the efforts among Canada, the United States, and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the introduction and spread of regulated pests, while facilitating safe intra- and

inter-regional trade. NAPPO member countries are committed to provide the best technical expertise necessary to advance the agreed-upon NAPPO priorities and agenda. A key component of NAPPOs strategic goals is to significantly improve awareness and communication regarding the importance of NAPPO activities. The strategic goals⁴ and the means for accomplishing them over the next five years are:

1. Protect North American plant resources, including the environment, from the introduction and spread of regulated plant pests.

- a. Use risk/science intelligence to identify and verify offshore threats (specific pests, traditional and non-traditional trade pathways, or both) that may impact the NAPPO region.
- b. Apply a harmonized regional approach for phytosanitary measures by coordinating safeguarding initiatives (where appropriate), developing science-based standards and other strategic documents, and providing a framework/mechanism for implementing them.
- c. Address the impacts of climate change by collaborating with the IPPC, NPPOs, and RPPOs, and consider how NAPPO can play a role in mitigating its impact on plant health and pests.
- d. Continue enhancing the NAPPO pest reporting system to ensure prompt notification of new pest interceptions that pose a risk to our region, which may facilitate a timely coordinated response by two or more NAPPO member countries, where appropriate.
- e. Support intra-regional cooperation on transboundary pest activities for pests that affect two or more NAPPO member countries, as appropriate.

2. Facilitate safe trade on the basis of science-based regional standards and harmonized phytosanitary measures.

- a. Develop priority regional standards and other documents, based on the latest scientific and technical information.
- b. Conduct a regular/periodic review of the phytosanitary measures' framework for the NAPPO region to identify new priorities and existing gaps and determine which standards and other documents, procedures, or practices should be developed, maintained, updated, or archived.
- c. Assist NAPPO member countries and key trading partners in interpreting regional and international standards and promoting their implementation (for example, the use of systems approaches) through the development of manuals, workshops, and training materials, as appropriate.
- d. Assist NAPPO member countries, as appropriate, in presenting and discussing the technical information to avoid or settle a phytosanitary dispute.

⁴ Presented in no specific order of priority/importance

- e. Assess the successes and challenges in the implementation of regional standards to adjust them to changing global conditions.
- f. Standardize diagnostic protocols in the NAPPO region.
- g. Exchange information on alternatives to methyl bromide (MeBr) and cooperate by sharing scientific developments on suitable alternatives for phytosanitary use.
- h. Support the global implementation of ePhyto and electronic data exchange.
- i. Support the development of harmonized traceback procedures by NPPOs in the region to inform compliance with phytosanitary measures in trade among NAPPO member countries.

3. Promote and maintain active industry and stakeholder engagement in NAPPO activities.

- a. Work with industry and stakeholders to identify changing industry practices and consumer preferences to better understand how these may influence phytosanitary activities in the NAPPO region.
- b. Solicit and encourage industry and stakeholder input into the NAPPO annual Work Program.
- c. Engage industry and stakeholders through active representation in NAPPO Expert Groups, as appropriate, to ensure that their viewpoints are considered in the development of NAPPO products.
- d. Adopt other practical approaches to continue fostering an active dialogue and partnership with industry and stakeholders on plant protection and regulatory harmonization issues.

4. Contribute leadership in the international phytosanitary community

- a. Present and promote the use of NAPPO regional standards, including commodity standards, as models for new IPPC standards.
- b. Promote the development of IPPC materials (e.g., standards, guides) important to NAPPO member countries.
- c. Identify emerging plant health policy issues from outside the region which can potentially affect NAPPO member countries and consider the need for action.
- d. Support and partner with the IPPC Secretariat on strategic initiatives and activities important to NAPPO member countries.
- e. Collaborate and demonstrate leadership among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) including through the Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection⁵ (GICSV, because of its Spanish acronym).
- f. Design and deliver events (workshops, webinars, symposia) and materials that ensure consistent interpretation and implementation of regional and international standards and related resources, as appropriate.

⁵ More information on GICSV can be found on the [NAPPO Website](#)

- g. Collaborate, as appropriate, with other regional, hemispheric, and international organizations that have a supporting or complementary role to NAPPO.

5. Promote and maintain the robust scientific and technical basis of NAPPO activities

- a. Provide a forum for the timely exchange of scientific and technical information that may come from NAPPO member country governments and relevant organizations and consider its use or implementation, as appropriate.
- b. Strengthen partnerships with research, scientific and other organizations to garner broader support for NAPPO objectives and activities through participation, speaking engagements, and NAPPO advocacy at various scientific conferences and meetings.

6. Continue improving NAPPO communication and outreach

- a. Demonstrate and communicate to stakeholders the relevance and importance of NAPPO's work in protecting plant resources to:
 - i. Senior leaders and other regulatory officials in each member country
 - ii. Industry
 - iii. Other stakeholders, including the general public
- b. Continue building confidence and fostering trust on phytosanitary measures among stakeholders in NAPPO member countries.
- c. Facilitate communication and strategic coordination among industry sectors of North America to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities to protect plant health.
- d. Consider the use of innovative communication mechanisms and platforms to disseminate information.